

## Responsibilities

The Delaware Valley School District is committed to what is in the best interest of homeless children and youth. Whenever feasible, Delaware Valley will minimize the effects of mobility on homeless students by maintaining a stable educational environment.

DVSD is responsible for enrolling homeless children and youth in the school that is in his or her best interest and for providing prompt and sensitive service to parents and children who need assistance.

### **Definition of Homelessness**

According to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, students are considered homeless if they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, even if the temporary residence is outside DVSD. Students living under the following conditions are considered homeless:

- Living with friends or relatives due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
- Living in motels, hotels, or trailer parks used to house homeless families
- Living in an emergency shelter or transitional shelter
- Living in camping grounds
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, buses, or train stations
- Foster children awaiting foster care placement
- Unaccompanied youth who may be living in a shelter, inadequate housing, or denied housing by family

# Where will my child go to school?

The decision about which school your child attends should be made after considering such factors as:

- Special needs of your child
- Continuity of instruction
- Length of stay in your temporary nighttime location
- Time and distance to transport your child to and from school

You have the right to decide whether it is best for your child to stay in the same school he or she attended before becoming homeless (school of origin) or attend the school serving your temporary nighttime location.

If the school your child attended before becoming homeless (school of origin) is in Delaware Valley School District, your child may continue to attend that school unless:

- You decide it would be better for your child to transfer to the school serving your temporary nighttime location
- We believe there is a good reason for your child to transfer to the school serving your temporary nighttime location

If the school your child attended before becoming homeless (school of origin) is outside Delaware Valley School District, we will need to involve that school in deciding which school your child will attend and in setting up transportation.

### What do I need to enroll my child in school?

Your child has the right to be enrolled in school without delay. You will need to complete the following steps and provide the documents listed below.

### **New Student Enrollment:**

- Complete the online New Student Registration at <u>www.DVSD.org</u> and check the homeless box
- DVSD AR251 Form: Homeless Student, will be completed by the DVSD staff You will need to provide the following documents as soon as they become available, but this will not delay enrollment into the school district:
  - School records
  - Birth certificate
  - Immunization records

Do not delay in enrolling your child in school. If you do not have these documents, let us know and we can help you get them.

Your child will receive lunch the first day, and is automatically eligible for the Free and Reduced Lunch. Additionally, the school will provide you with information on any other program for which your child is eligible.

# How will my child get to school?

Transportation will be provided or arranged for homeless students attending their school of origin or the school serving their temporary nighttime location. Staff will assist in arranging transportation as soon as possible. Our aim is not to exceed three school days.

If your child misses school due to lack of transportation, the absence will be excused. If a homeless student becomes permanently housed during the school year, he or she will continue to receive transportation until the end of that school year.

Please contact your school counselor or the homeless liaison for assistance or clarification on any of this information.

DVSD Homeless/Foster Care Liaison Jayson Pope Ed.D. (570)296-1827

PA ECYEH Coordinator Region 7
Jeff Zimmerman (570)718-4613
<a href="http://www.liu18.ort/index.php/ecyeh"><u>Http://www.liu18.ort/index.php/ecyeh</u></a>